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Amateur Radio License Plates

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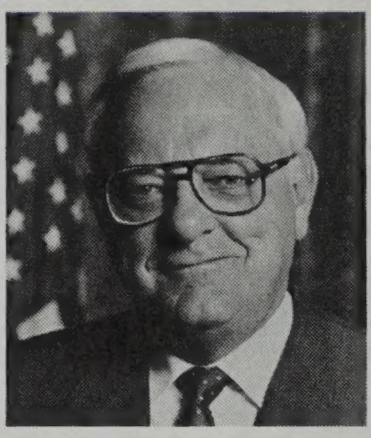
George H. Ryan
Secretary of State

Radio Operators Save Lives



Amateur radio operators in Illinois share an interest in short-wave radio and a concern for others. Each year, they offer assistance to countless victims of accidents, disasters and other mishaps by providing a vital communications link with emergency services.

Since 1955, Illinois has recognized these citizens by offering special license plates that display their call numbers issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

For your convenience, my office issues amateur radio license plates on a multi-year, staggered basis. This allows applicants to renew their plates simply by purchasing stickers. Expiration dates are based on the vehicle's purchase date, application date, or expiration date of the vehicle's current registration. An additional benefit of using multi-year plates is cost savings for taxpayers of Illinois.

Apply today for your amateur radio plates.

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Q. May amateur radio operators who have current amateur radio plates but have upgraded their FCC licenses receive new plates?

A. Yes, but they must pay an $11 replacement fee, submit a copy of the FCC license indicating the new call numbers, *and surrender the current plates upon receipt of the new plates.*

Q. May amateur radio license plates be obtained if a vehicle is currently registered with regular passenger, motorcycle or "B" Truck plates?

A. Yes. Plates with a current sticker that is valid for more than 60 days may be surrendered for amateur radio plates upon payment of an $8 fee *($5 for reclassification fee, plus $3 for manufacturing of the plates).* The amateur radio license plates will be issued the same expiration date previously assigned to the surrendered plates.

If current plates are due for renewal in less than 60 days, amateur radio license plates may be obtained for the standard registration or motorcycle fee plus the additional $3. It is not necessary to return the plates that expire within 60 days.

Q. May amateur radio license plates be obtained if a vehicle was previously registered in another state?

Questions and Answers

A. Yes, but first an Illinois title must be obtained by surrendering the out-of-state title and submitting the proper application and $5 title fee.

Q. May amateur radio license plates be obtained if a recently purchased vehicle has not been registered in the owner's name?

A. Yes, but the applicant first must submit a certificate of origin or a properly assigned title and the $5 title fee.

Q. How can an individual obtain renewal stickers for amateur radio plates?

A. A renewal application along with the proper fee must be submitted prior to the expiration month. Renewal stickers are available at the Secretary of State's facilities in Springfield and Chicago; throughout Illinois at participating banks, savings and loan associations, and currency exchanges; and through remitting agencies.

Q. What is the renewal fee for amateur radio plates?

A. The renewal fee is the same as that for the standard registration or motorcycle plates. *(No additional $3 fee is required.)*

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The Plate Facts

- Plates are available for passenger cars, motorcycles and second division vehicles weighing 8,000 lbs. or less.
- All plates are issued on a multi-year, staggered basis.
- Each applicant is allowed only one set of amateur radio license plates.

The following documents must accompany the initial application:

1) A copy of the applicant's amateur radio operator license issued by the FCC;

2) A copy of applicant's Illinois vehicle title or current registration identification card. The FCC license holder's name must be on the title unless the vehicle is leased;

3) The proper fee, which is the same as for the standard registration or motorcycle license plate, plus an additional $3 fee for the manufacturing of the plates. *(When renewing and purchasing only a sticker, the $3 fee will* ***not*** *be charged.)*

Applications

To obtain the appropriate license plate application, go to the nearest Secretary of State drivers license facility, or call or write to:

Secretary of State
Non-Standard Plates Section
Centennial Building
Springfield, IL 62756
(217) 524-1560

Mandatory Vehicle Insurance

All motor vehicles registered and operated in Illinois must be covered by liability insurance — that covers the property damage and/or injuries you may cause others in an accident.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois
June 1991 — 7.5M — GA-1751
VSD-202.4

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